

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06809 131602Z

13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /098 W

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R 131440Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9803

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL LURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6809

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VT, MZ

SUBJECT: VATICAN CONCERN FOR MOZAMBIQUE

REF: ROME 6029, 6754

1. VATICAN SEMI-OFFICIAL DAILY "OSSERVATORE ROMANO"  
JULY 13 CARRIED BRIEF, FRONT PAGE ARTICLE TITLED  
"GRAVE NEWS OF MASSACRES IN MOZAMBIQUE". ARTICLE RECALLS  
THAT VATICAN SPOKESMAN HAD ALREADY REGISTERED VATICAN  
CONCERN FOR MASSACRES WHICH TOOK PLACE NEAR TETI LAST  
DECEMBER. ONE SENTENCE EDITORIAL COMMENT AT END OF  
ARTICLE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT VIOLENCE WILL BE SUPRESSED  
AND THAT A PEACEFUL FORMULA CAN BE FOUND WHICH RESPECTS  
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND OF PEOPLES.

2. JULY 13 "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" REPORTS THAT VARIOUS  
MISSIONARY ORDERS PLACING HEAVY PRESSURE ON VATICAN TO  
DENOUNCE FORCEFULLY PORTUGUESE REPRESSION IN AFRICA.  
HEAD OF WHITE FATHERS, FR. THEO VAN ASTEN, IS QUOTED AS SAYING  
IT NOT SUFFICIENT FOR VATICAN DIPLOMATS "TO SEEK INFORMA-  
TION" ON MASSACRE, TIME HAS COME FOR VATICAN TO SPEAK  
OUT PUBLICLY. VAN ASTEN ADDED THAT MISSIONARIES HAD  
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PREPARED "WHITE PAPER" ON SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA  
FOR VATICAN AND THERE NO DOUBT THAT HOLY SEE FULLY AWARE

OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE.

3. WE LEARNED TODAY FROM A VATICAN SOURCE THAT CANADIAN EPISCOPATE HAS SOUGHT VATICAN'S GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO GROWING PRESSURE IN CANADA FOR CHURCH TO TAKE STRONG PUBLIC STAND AGAINST PORTUGUESE AFRICAN POLICIES. QUITE UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, CARDINAL SECRETARY OF STATE VILLOT WIRED BACK THAT THEY SHOULD DO WHAT THEY THOUGHT RIGHT.

COMMENT: THIS LOOKS LIKE VATICAN FOR MOMENT IS AT LEAST WILLING TO LET OTHERS PULL ITS CHESTNUTS FROM THE FIRE.  
VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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